Gratiot County Board of Commissioners

Dave Owens, Chair
George Bailey Jan Bunting
Tim Gay Steven Sopocy

Tim Dolehanty, County Administrator
Angie Thompson, County Clerk
214 E. Center Street, Ithaca, MI 48847
989-875-5215 (Clerk)

A Regular Full Board Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Gratiot County was held Tuesday, April 7, 2026, beginning at 4:30 PM in the Gratiot County Courthouse Commissioners Room.

A. Call to Order by Chair Owens at 4:30 p.m.
B. Roll Call of Commissioners, Present: George Bailey, Jan Bunting, Tim Gay, Steve Sopocy, and Dave Owens. Absent: None. Also present: Administrator Tim Dolehanty and Clerk Angie Thompson.
C. Invocation by Commissioner Bailey.
D. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
E. Additions/Deletions to Agenda and approval.
    1. J1 Yeo & Yeo.

    Board Action: Motion by Bailey, second by Gay to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried 5-0.
F. Brief public comment.
    The Board welcomes all public input and appreciates adherence to the time limits established. Each period shall be limited to one 3-minute comment per period
    Robert Baxter came to talk about Blight Enforcement. Asking to refund the Township the money paid for the Blight Enforcement.
G. Consideration of Consent Calendar: Board Minutes, Communications and recommendations from committees.
    1. Commissioner's Minutes from March 17, 2026.
    2. Communications.
        a. EightCAP, Inc. Minutes.
        b. Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
        c. Consumers Energy 2026 Reliability Action Plan.
        d. Greater Gratiot Development, Inc. Minutes and Financials.
        e. FY25 Yeo & Yeo Audited Financials- GGDI.

3. Other Counties Resolutions.

Board Action: Motion by Bailey, second by Sopocy to approve the minutes and accept the communication. Motion carried 5-0.

H. Administrator's Report.

Handed out Letter of Support for MMMEG to request funding from Michigan Health and Human Services to get a CT scan into Montcalm County- see extra
Board Action: Motion by Sopocy Second by Bunting sign a letter of support for the purchase of a CT Scanner for MMMEG. Motion carried 5-0.
Blight: Many problems—one big one is the lack of resources. We need to rearrange the Permit Department, so Job duties are separated. See Extra. The board would like Tim to move forward to restructure the Permits Department.
Talked about the RPF for Attendance Program, received quotes ranging from 15,395.00 to 383,000.00. The Indigent Defense would like to move to the empty building across the street. We would rent at $1,000.00 a month. Policies going forward for the next meeting: Freedom of Information Act, Enhanced Access to Public Records Policy, Equalization Data Processing, Voice Mail and Email, Procedures, "Proposed for Repeal": Declaration of Emergency Expenditure, and Budget Transfers. Tim would like to have a work session with the board sometime in April.

I. Commissioner Committee Reports.

Commissioner Bailey: Breckenridge meeting, have the Fire Hall up and running. Airport meeting. Board of Health meeting. Slipper invitation from the Transportation System for Alma, looking at having a proposal to have a County Transportation Authority.
Commissioner Sopocy: Parks and Rec meeting, installing a splash pad in Alma. Washington Township going over Budget issues. Conservation meeting reviewed meeting times. Fulton Township has a new Treasurer. Health Department working on Budget, proposal about Sewer inspections. Had a report on vaccination rates.
Commissioner Bunting: City of Alma, MSU Extension, and Conservation meeting. Attended a meeting for the New Tower that was put up for Central Dispatch.
Commissioner Gay: Attended the Republican meeting, Amanda Love was there for Secretary of State.
Commissioner Owens: Greater Gratiot.

J. Consideration of New Business.

1. Yeo & Yeo, County Audit.

2. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-402 2026 Gratiot Countywide Master Plan.

Board Action: Motion by Sopocy, second by Bailey to table this until the next meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-409 to Submit to the electorate a Special Millage Question for Renewal and Restoration of Funding for Agricultural and Economic Development.
   Board Action: Motion by Sopocy, second by Bunting to approve Resolution 26-409 to Sumit to the electorate a Special Millage Question for Renewal and Restoration of Funding for Agricultural and Economic Development. Roll Call: Yes: Bailey, Bunting, Gay, Sopocy, and Owens. No: None. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-410 to Submit to the Electorate a Special Millage Question for Renewal and Restoration of Funding for Gratiot County Commission on Aging.
   Board Action: Motion by Bailey, second by Bunting to approve Resolution 26-410 to Submit to the Electorate a Special Millage Question for Renewal and Restoration of Funding for Gratiot County Commission on Aging. Roll Call: Yes: Bunting, Gay, Sopocy, Bailey, and Owens. No: None. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-404 to Adopt the 2026 Gratiot Equalization Report.
   Board Action: Motion by Sopocy, and second by Bailey to approve and sign Resolution 26-404 the Equalization Report for 2026 (L 4024). Motion carried 5-0.

6. Gratiot Conservation District.

7. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-406 to revise the Fiscal Year 2026 Staffing Position Allocation List.
   Board Action: Motion by Sopocy, second by Bailey to approve Resolution 26-406 to revise the Fiscal Year 2026 Staffing Position Allocation List with change the funding from General Budget to Treatment Court Fund Budget. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-405 to approve an agreement to create a Regional Materials Management Plan.
   Board Action: Motion by Sopocy, second by Bailey to approve Resolution 26-405 to approve an agreement to create a Regional Materials Management Plan. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-378 to appoint Gratiot County Library Board Member.
   Board Action: Motion by Bailey, and second by Sopocy to approve Resolution 26-378 appointing Maureen Murphy to the Gratiot County Library Board. Motion carried 5-0.
10. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-379 to appoint Gratiot County Veterans Affairs Board.
    Board Action: Motion by Sopocy, second by Bunting to approve Resolution 26-379 to appoint Ken Davis, Autumn Leonard and Brandon Simmet to the Gratiot County Veteran Affairs Board. Motion carried 5-0.

11. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-403 to appoint Gratiot County Planning Commission Board Member.
    Board Action: Motion by Bunting, second by Gay to approve Resolution 26-403 to appoint Bonnie Gustavison to the Gratiot County Planning Commission. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Consideration of Claims.
    Board Action: Motion by Sopocy, second by Bailey to pay the presented Expenditure Invoices 3-18-26 to 4-2-26. Motion carried 5-0.

13. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-407 to establish the Budget Calendar for Fiscal year 2027.
    Board Action: Motion by Sopocy, second by Bunting to approve Resolution 26-407 to establish the Budget Calendar for Fiscal year 2027. Motion carried 5-0.

14. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-408 to Authorize Land Lease for Agricultural Purposes.
    Board Action: Motion by Sopocy, second by Bailey to approve Resolution 26-408 to Authorize Land Lease for Agricultural Purposes. Motion carried 5-0.

15. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-411 to accelerate Medical Examiner Services Transition.
    Board Action: Motion by Gay, second by Sopocy to approve Resolution 26-411 to accelerate Medical Examiner Services Transition. Motion carried 5-0.

K. Consideration of Unfinished Business.
April 16, 2026 at 1 P.M. for a work session.

L. Additional public comment and board comments.

M. Consideration to enter into Closed Session: MCL 15.268 (8)(c) “For strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement if either negotiating party requests a closed hearing.

N. Consideration to enter into closed session to consult with the County Attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with the matter of Gratiot County vs. Wayne Buck Andrews as permitted under the Open Meetings Act as a discussion during an open session of the meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the Count (MCL 15.268(1)(e)).
Cancelled N Went to open session after M.

Board Action: Motion by Gay, second by Bailey to Break and the go into Closed session: MCL 15.268 (8)(c) “For Strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement if either negotiating party requests a closed hearing. Motion carried 5-0.
Went into closed Session at 6:57 p.m.
Meeting Reconvened at 7:22 p.m.

O. Consideration to accept the Legal Advice Regarding Gratiot County vs. Wayne Buck Andrews.
Board Action: Motion by Sopocy, second by Bailey, to approve the settlement agreement as presented accepting the recommendation of the Attorney. Roll Call: Yes: Gay, Sopocy, Bailey, Bunting, and Owens. No: None. Motion carried 5-0.

P. Adjournment.
Board Action: Motion by Gay, second by Bailey to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

Angie Thompson

Angie Thompson, Gratiot County Clerk
Approved: